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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/052,649	01/18/2002	Danny S. Barnes	005557.P008	5629

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EXAMINER

SELBY, GEVELL V

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2615

DATE MAILED: 12/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/052,649	Applicant(s) BARNES ET AL.	
	Examiner Gevell Selby	Art Unit 2615	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-7,9,10 and 12-14 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-7,9,10 and 12-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 January 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. **Claims 1, 3-7, 9, 10, and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bjorner et al., US 6,236,735.**

In regard to claims 1, 7, and 10, Bjorner et al., US, 6,236,735, discloses an apparatus and process for operating the apparatus comprising:

a machine-vision system comprising an internal camera (see figure 4, element 22 and column 7, lines 20-35: The camera is internal to or part of the machine-vision system) operatively connected to an image capture unit (see figure 4, element 30, column 10, lines 25-29 and column 11, lines 29-35: The host computer contains line buffers 56 and 68 to capture images sent from the cameras), and a digital signal processing unit (see figure 4, element 30 and figures 5 and 7: The host computer's CPU performs the processing for the system); and

a camera port connected to the image capture unit (see figure 4, element 54: It is inherent there is a video input port in order for the video signal (54) from the camera 16 to enter the computer), wherein the port is adapted to allow an external camera to be connected to the machine vision system so that the image

capture unit can capture images from both the internal camera and the external camera (see column 12, lines 56-60 and column 14, lines 20-35: The host computer captures images from the internal camera through the video signal line 66 and from the external camera through video line 54).

In regard to claims 3, 9, and 13, Bjorner et al., US, 6,236,735, discloses the apparatus and process of claims 1, 7, and 10, respectively, further comprising a decoder (see figure 4, element 28) connected to the camera port and to the image capture unit (see column 9, lines 45-57: The video processor or decoder is connected to the image capture unit through the camera port of the video signal (54)).

In regard to claims 4 and 14, Bjorner et al., US, 6,236,735, discloses the apparatus of claims 3 and 10, respectively, further comprising an external camera, wherein the external camera outputs an analog signal (see column 9, lines 45-49).

In regard to claims 5 and 11, Bjorner et al., US, 6,236,735, discloses the apparatus of claims 1 and 10, respectively, wherein the internal camera comprises a lens and an image sensor (see column 7, lines 20-24: It is inherent the CCD camera has a lens to focus the light on the image sensor).

In regard to claim 6, Bjorner et al., US, 6,236,735, discloses the apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a memory (see figure 4, element 58).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 2, 8, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bjorner et al., US 6,236,735.**

In regard to claims 2, 8 and 11, Bjorner et al., US 6,236,735, discloses the apparatus of claims 1, 7, and 10, respectively. The Bjorner reference does not disclose that the cameras output a digital signal. Official Notice is taken that it is well known in the art to configure a camera to have an A/D converter to convert the analog signal to digital. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to configure the system of the Bjorner reference to have the A/D converters in the cameras in order to send a digital signal to the processor.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following art discloses camera systems that process images from multiple cameras:

US 6,208,772,

US 4,516,265,

US 20020171741.

Art Unit: 2615

US 20030146285 is a related copending application.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gevell Selby whose telephone number is 703-305-8623. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 A.M. - 5:30 PM (every other Friday off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Christensen can be reached on 703-308-9644. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

gvs


TUAN HO
PRIMARY EXAMINER